April 18 - April 24, 2024 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 15 www.associatednewspapers.net

From the publisher

For more than 150 years, Associated Newspapers has brought local news to communities in this area. These publications have won hundreds of both state and national journalism awards during that century and a half of publishing and have weathered some serious challenges.

The past few weeks have presented a serious challenge as our editor who is our only editorial staff member, suffered a serious injury and is unable to produce any copy for our local pages. She will be incapacitated for several weeks.

We hope that explains the few pages online this week as we attempt to make decisions and plans for the future.

It is and has been for many, many years, an honor and a privilege of our publications to be entrusted with the publication of legal notices from several communities in the area. Above all else, we plan to honor that trust and publish the vital legal notices this week, although our news coverage is severely lacking in both our usual quality and quantity.

These serious circumstances will impact our plans for the future, but those plans will include, as they have for more than 150 years, our constant commitment to best serve our readership and our communities.

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 139, No. 15

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 77, No. 15

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 77, No. 15

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 24, No. 15

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
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THE ROMULUS ROMAN
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THE WAYNE EAGLE
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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 77, No. 15

Police officer nearly injured by 15-year-old driver

A Westland police officer narrowly escaped injury last week as a suspect drove from the scene of a crime, according to police reports.

Officers responded to a report of an attempted car theft at about 2:20 a.m. April 11. Upon arriving at the scene in the 35000 block of Hunter Avenue officers were alerted to a nearby vehicle that might have been involved in the incident.

As officers approached the vehicle, the driver attempted to flee the area and crashed the car into multiple garages causing serious property damage to several properties. When one of the responding officers exited his vehicle, the suspect drove the fleeing vehicle directly in the path of the officer, according to police reports of the incident. The officer was forced to immediately retreat to avoid being struck by the oncoming car. The fleeing vehicle struck the driver's side door of the patrol vehicle where the responding officer had initially been standing.

"The fleeing vehicle struck the driver's side door of the patrol vehicle where the responding officer had been standing."

Another officer in the area observed the suspect vehicle, a stolen white Kia Optima, and attempted to stop the car. The driver refused to stop and led officers on a pursuit that ended in the area of Ford and Central City Parkway where the driver lost control of the vehicle and struck a light pole.

Responding officers were able to apprehend all of the suspects involved including two adults and four juveniles. The driver of the suspect vehicle, a 15-year-old female Detroit resident, was arrested after a short foot pursuit and transported to the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility. The remaining juveniles, a 12- year-old female Detroit resident and a 13-year-old male Detroit resident were released to the custody of their parents and criminal complaints against each were forwarded to the Wayne County Juvenile Court.

James Hayes, an 18-year-old Detroit resident, was arraigned by Judge Mark McConnell on a felony charge of receiving and concealing stolen property. Hayes was issued a $10,000 personal bond and must be fitted with a GPS tether. Hayes was ordered to appear back at the 18th District Court on April 25th for a probable cause conference.

Kahari Thomas, an 18-year-old Detroit resident, was also arraigned by McConnell on a felony charge of receiving and concealing stolen property. Thomas was issued $10,000 personal bond and must be fitted with a GPS tether. Thomas was ordered to appear back at the 18th District Court on April 25 for a probable cause conference.

Celebrate

Canton Sports Center to reopen

The Canton Sports Center, a popular sports destination for local softball/baseball leagues and national tournaments, will reopen for the 2024 season after undergoing significant renovations with a special event set for May 1.

To celebrate the completion of the $1.2 million renovations, the Canton Sports Center will host "Light Up the Park," a special opening-day event. The special ceremony will feature Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak and the elected officials of the Canton Board of Trustees. The event will begin at 8 p.m., with public festivities scheduled from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. including softball and baseball games; Kicker's pizza party; glow party contests and DJ Royce.

This active facility, located in Canton Victory Park, was recently upgraded with a new state-of-the-art LED lighting system, that will improve on-field lighting and visibility in its 12 softball fields, as well as reduce energy consumption and enhance the overall experience for players and spectators.

Additional renovations included the replacement of all concrete sidewalks surrounding the facility, with several sidewalks leading to the 12 softball fields. The remainder of these sidewalk are scheduled for replacement in October, officials said.

"The Canton Sports Center is an incredible asset to our community, as well as a high-demand sports destination," said Greg Hohenberger, Canton Leisure Services director. "All of these renovations show that Canton Township is committed to recreation and to providing opportunities for all ages to participate in baseball, softball, cricket, lacrosse, flag football, and more."

The Canton Sports Center is located at 46555 W. Michigan Ave. and features a 12-diamond lighted softball/baseball operation with state-of-the-art facilities, as well as Kicker's Bar & Grill. The complex annually plays host to several national tournaments that produce a significant economic impact to the area; at times generating over $1 million in revenue for area businesses.

For additional information about the Canton Sports Center, visit csc.canton-mi.org, or call (734) 483-5600.

Spring is here

Area residents traveling through downtown Plymouth have enjoyed the efforts of the Rotary Club members who planted hundreds of tulip bulbs in the Main Street median last fall. The flowers, now in bloom celebrating the warm spring weather, will be replaced by Rotary Club volunteers with masses of begonia plants next month.
Photo by Dave Willett

Canton Township Police Community Relations Officer retires

Ofc. Patricia Esselink

Canton Township Police Department Community Relations Officer Patricia Esselink has retired after 23-year on the force.

Esselink began her career with Canton in 2001. Initially serving as a patrol officer, she responded to calls for service, provided traffic enforcement, conducted criminal investigations, and responded to emergency situations throughout the community. In addition to her patrol duties, Esselink was selected early on to participate in numerous special units including those of TEAM (Teaching, Educating and Mentoring), Explorer Unit, Bicycle Unit, and the Rapid Response Unit. Esselink maintained active roles in each of these special units throughout her career, attaining lead officer status as a TEAM instructor and Explorer Unit advisor. She excelled at engaging with the youth participating in both programs—one focusing on safety skills for young children, and the other providing training and insight for teens interested in a career in law enforcement, according to a prepared statement from department officials.

In 2013, Esselink left road patrol for a position as an investigator in the department detective bureau. She quickly became a valuable member of the unit, displaying a passion for thoroughly investigating a wide array of criminal cases, officials said and she received numerous awards and citations for her work while assigned to this special unit.

Two years later, Esselink made a significant move in her career, accepting her current position as Community Relations Officer.

See Officer, page 2.

Demolition begins at Northville Downs

The largest development in the City of Northville was set to begin demolition this week.

Outbuildings at the former Northville Downs were slated for demolition this week by Renascent, Inc. as one of the first steps in the redevelopment of the site into residential and retail structures. The proposed Downs project will be a community of single-family homes, townhouses, row houses, apartments, condominiums and small businesses, along with greenspace amenities according to the developers' website.

Permits for the demolition were recently issued by city officials. Included in the demolition permit were the houses and apartment complex north of Beal Street extended. A demolition permit has also been issued to Toll Brothers for the structure on the old Farmer's Market site at Seven Mile and Sheldon Road. The main racetrack clubhouse is not included in the scope of the demolition permits that have been issued to date, according to city officials.

Asbestos remediation has been completed in the outbuildings on the Downs racetrack parcel and inspections by representatives of Environmental Testing and Consulting (ETC) have determined the outbuildings clear and safe for demolition. Remediation continues on the main racetrack clubhouse and it has not been cleared for demolition, according to a prepared statement from the city.

All materials generated from the dismantling of the structures will be hauled off site. Construction traffic will enter and exit the site through the construction entrance on Center Street and will be limited to Center Street and Seven Mile. City ordinances allow construction work from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily, seven days a week. The construction site will be secured outside of construction times, officials explained.

For more information visit the Hunter Pasteur website on The Downs project, Northville Downs, or the city of Northville pages dedicated to this project Northville Downs Redevelopment - City of Northville, MI.

Questions or concerns can be emailed to ndinput@hunterpasteurhomes.com or info@ci.northville.mi.us.

Art in Bloom set at Village Arts Factory

Art in Bloom," a special spring artisan market presented by the Village Arts Factory and Raman Pharmacy of Cherry Hill Village, is set to take place from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, April 27 indoors, as well as outside on the grounds of this unique arts complex, located at 50755 Cherry Hill Road in Canton Township.

This special event, supported by Jacob Matthew Jewelers and Trinity Health IHA Medical Group Nurse Midwives, will showcase resident studio artists of the Village Arts Factory, as well as other local food and artisan vendors selling an array of fine arts, crafts, handmade gifts, jewelry, pottery, ceramics, apparel, accessories, and home goods. In addition, the annual Cherry Hill Potters Guild Spring Pottery Sale will also take place during the event.

"We are thrilled to bring back this special artisan market that celebrates the return of spring while showcasing a wide variety of high-quality handcrafted merchandise," stated Kevin Ryan, community program director. "The entire family will be able to enjoy this special event that is jampacked with so much more than a unique shopping experience."

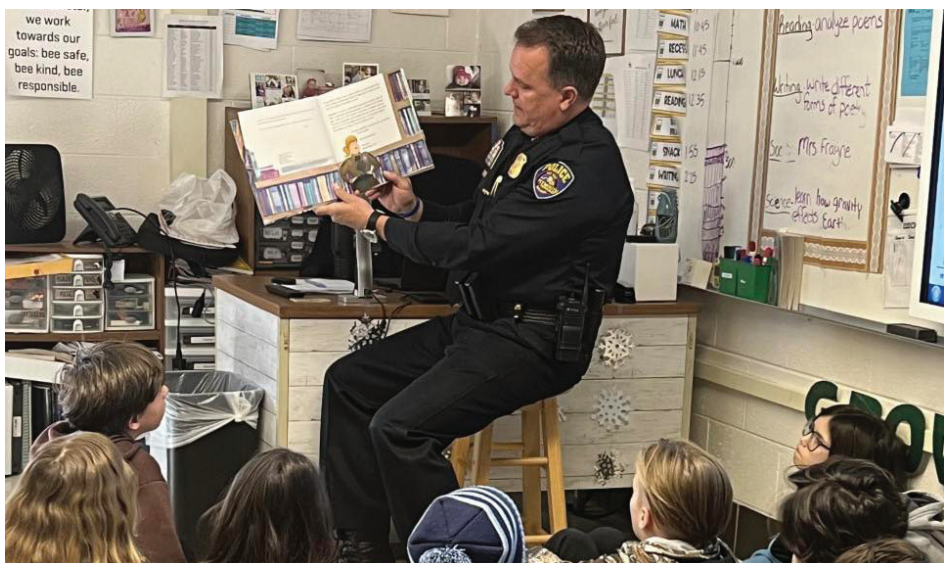
Additional highlights include: live music; children's activities; face painting; as well as an opportunity to view the current exhibition, "You Can Get There from Here: An Artist's Pathway by Martine MacDonald," in the Village Arts Factory Fine Art Gallery through April 30. In addition, refreshments and coffee will also be available for purchase from onsite food and coffee trucks.

The Village Arts Factory, located at 50755 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, MI, is a multi-purpose studio space, where artists, designers, teachers, and community leaders can gather to collaborate, create, and display their works.

For additional information about the Village Arts Factory 'Art in Bloom' event, visit www.villageartsfactory.com or call (734)765-7061.

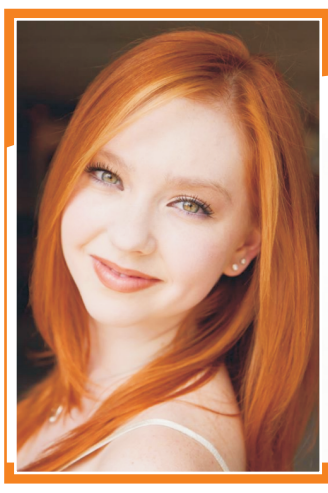
New best friend

Members of the Westland Rotary Club partnered with officials from the Westland Police Department for idea on projects to help the community. The addition of a therapy dog to the police resources was ultimately selected as the most beneficial for the community. Last week, Rotor was welcomed to the city as part of a program funded by the Westland Rotary Club. Rotor is an 8-month-old Golden Retriever mixed with Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Rotor is a rescue dog who had a difficult start in life. Rotor is scheduled to begin his therapy dog training for certification next month.



Books and Badges

'March is Reading Month' was celebrated last month by the Plymouth Township Police Department "Books and Badges" program, led by School Resource Ofc. Joe Smitherman. Police officers, including Chief James Knittel, accepted 50 invitations to read to students. "These positive interactions were also an excellent opportunity to let our students know that the police are here to help them and keep them safe. We estimate that over 1,200 students and teachers were positively impacted by this community program," officials posted on social media.



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Officer

From page 1

In this position, Esselink found her niche by combining her passion for police work with her intrinsic ability of positive interpersonal communications, the statement continued. Over the past nine years she has become the face of the department—transforming the position into an all-encompassing, public safety wellbeing campaign for residents of all ages, abilities, and situations. Her expansion of the position included development of custom educational programs and assistance to address the specific needs of our community's youth, teens, adults, senior citizens, and those otherwise in need, striving to make their lives safer and better than she found them. She has also worked with the neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and places of worship to ensure they have the knowledge and tools necessary to provide safe environments for those who gather in their facilities, officials said.

During the last six years Esselink has also served as a Department Training Instructor, working with a team of peers tasked with providing a variety of annual and specialty training for sworn personnel. As a senior officer, Esselink was able to incorporate her expertise and experience to provide mentoring for officers at varying stages of their careers. Her knowledge, positive energy, and laughter will be missed by all, officials noted.

"Officer Esselink has set herself apart within the law enforcement community. Her approach to policing, marked by a dedication to bridging the gap between the community and the police department, stands as a model of service," said Police Chief Chad Baugh. "Officer Esselink's outstanding contributions have been instrumental in fostering a strong bond between the police and the community, demonstrating the profound impact that one individual can have in enhancing public safety and community relations. As she shifts into retirement, her legacy of service, leadership, and community engagement will continue to inspire current and future generations within our police department," Baugh added.

PUBLIC AUCTION

GREAT LAKES TOWING IMPOUND AND RECOVERY

On Tuesday, April 26th, 2024 at 11:30 am, Great Lakes Towing Impound and Recovery Division located at 42350 Van Born Rd, Belleville, Mi, County of Wayne, will conduct a public auction of Impounded and Abandoned vehicles. The following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2013	KIA	4D	5XXGN4A79DG125067	24-0013423
2017	Volkswagen	SW	WVGRV7AX3HK012233	24-0008319

The above vehicles are impounded through the City of Dearborn Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the City of Dearborn Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2008	FORD	SW	2FMDK36C58BA48212	24-0012396
2017	FORD	SW	NM0LS7E73H1318624	24-0012432

The above vehicles are impounded through the City of Livonia Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the City of Livonia Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2000	Chevrolet	PU	1GCEK19T3YE400135	24-0003451

The above vehicles are impounded through the Garden City Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the Garden City Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2004	TOYOTA	4D	4T1BE32K34U342238	24-0013763
2010	DODGE	SW	2D4RN3D16AR342818	24-0013762
2004	NISSAN	4D	1N4AL11D44C194884	24-0015054

The above vehicles are impounded through the Westland Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the Westland Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

All Vehicles are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. This is a cash only sale and all vehicles must be paid in full at the conclusion of the auction.

City councilman elected as state representative

Westland City Councilman Peter Herzberg has been chosen to complete the vacant 25th District State House of Representatives term. The 25th District includes portions of Westland, Wayne and Canton Township.

Herzberg, a Democrat, was the choice of 6,373 voters in the special election last Tuesday. His opponent, Republican Josh Powell, garnered 4,096 votes. Herzberg's total was 59.5 percent of the votes cast while Powell was the choice of 38.3 percent of voters. Herzberg will serve the remainder of the term vacated by Kevin Coleman when he was elected as mayor of Westland last fall.

The term will be on the ballot again in November.

The Democratic candidate in District 13, Mai Xiong, won 5,740 or 65.6 percent of the votes in the 13th District while her Republican opponent Ronald Singer received 3,006 or 34.3 percent of the votes.

The two Democratic victories now give Democrats a majority vote in the state house.

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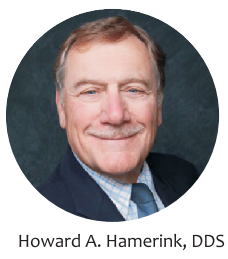
Howard A. Hamerink, DDS

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